

# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE



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Service

Seirbhís Leabharlainne  
Chomhairle Contae Chill Chainnigh



## Friends with Pens



**D**o you have fond memories of exchanging letters with a pen pal overseas or have you always wanted a pen pal?



Kilkenny Library Service are pleased to announce a very exciting upcoming collaboration with Ritter Public Library in Ohio, USA. The program aims to revive the art of letter writing and will match people of similar ages and interests.



Aptly named **"Friends with Pens"** the program allows members of the library to sign up to the scheme and get matched to a pen pal in the States. Signing up is easy and free, available to all our **over 18's** members and will start from July 1st. All of our branch libraries in Kilkenny are participating in this initiative. Call in to your local

library and scan the QR code or fill out an online form to register. Library staff will assist you if you have any difficulties.

We are gathering participants for the scheme from July 1st-August 16th.

After this date, the staff in Ritter Public Library Ohio will work on matching participants with one another. You can hope to receive your first letter towards the end of September and you will be notified by email once this arrives. You can pick up the letter in your local library.

Along with your first letter you will also receive three pre-addressed stamped envelopes, which you can post locally.



The scheme will run until mid-December, if after this time you decide that you would like to continue the correspondence with your pen pal you can arrange that privately.

To summarise, the scheme covers the cost of sending three letters to the US and is totally free.

All you have to do is ensure you are a member of your local library, (membership is free with ID) and sign up for the scheme.

We hope that it will be an enriching experience as the Winter months draw in and who knows where it will lead? *If you have any questions, you can contact*

*Aideen.Mcdonald@kilkennylibrary.ie*



## LEAF LITERACY AND FOOD EDUCATION AT THE LIBRARY

Kilkenny County Council Library Service in partnership with GIY (Grow it Yourself Waterford) were delighted to launch Literacy and Food Education at the library LEAF in Graiguenamanagh Library on Wednesday last week.



LEAF funded under the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP Strand 2) is a pilot programme with GIY (Grow it Yourself Waterford). This initiative focuses on empowering communities to grow their own food as a climate action, fostering food empathy, and promoting sustainable living. We were delighted to have local community growers from the Graiguenamanagh Community Garden attend the event and there was an opportunity to visit their lovely garden across the road from Graiguenamanagh Library.

LEAF aims to support growing food in local communities, there are free seeds (Peas, Beans and Spinach) available in 5 of our local libraries when people register with the LEAF programme: Castlecomer, Graiguenamanagh, Ferrybank, Loughboy and Thomastown.

By sharing seeds and growing together communities can develop greater food empathy, a closer connection to food growing and support healthier more sustainable living. Food empathy looks to shifting attitudes, knowledge and behaviour around food such as less food waste, more plant-based diets, more local food, more seasonal food and reduced food related pollution. All these are meaningful actions to tackle climate change.



Registering is simple, just scan the QR code on the back of the seed packet or ask your friendly librarian for help. Once you are registered you will have access to growing instructions and support via newsletters and digital growing guides. More information is available on [www.libraryleaf.ie](http://www.libraryleaf.ie) or [www.kilkennylibrary.ie](http://www.kilkennylibrary.ie)